

collecting B-cells from the test sample; and
testing the B-cells for the presence of prions associated with transmissible
spongiform encephalopathy.

36. (New). A method of testing for the presence of prions associated with transmissible
spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample;
collecting T-cells from the test sample; and
testing the T-cells for the presence of prions associated with transmissible
spongiform encephalopathy.

37. (New). A method to test for the presence of prions associated with transmissible
spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample;
collecting B-cells and T-cells from said test sample; and
testing the B-cells and T-cells for the presence of prions associated with
transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

38. (New). A method for identifying the presence of prions in B-cells, wherein said
prions are associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, the method
comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample;
collecting B-cells from said test sample;
adding a ligand to the isolated B-cells, wherein said ligand is capable of
identifying B-cells infected with prions associated with transmissible spongiform
encephalopathy; and
identifying the presence of prions associated with transmissible spongiform
encephalopathy.

39. (New). A method for identifying the presence of prions in T-cells, wherein said prions are associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, the method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining a test sample;
- collecting T-cells from said test sample;
- adding a ligand to the isolated T-cells, wherein said ligand is capable of identifying T-cells that are infected with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy; and
- identifying the presence of prions associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

40. (New). A method for identifying the presence of prions in B-cells and T-cells, wherein said prions are associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, the method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining a test sample;
- collecting B-cells and T-cells from said test sample;
- adding a ligand to the isolated B-cells and T-cells, wherein said ligand is capable of identifying B-cells and T-cells that are infected with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy; and
- identifying the presence of prions associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the title and add the following new title: Methods for Identifying Prions Associated With Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy

On page 1, line 4, please insert This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. Section 371 to PCT/EP98/08271 filed on December 16, 1997